(b) whether this subject was discussed during the three day Conference of Central Bureau of Investigation officers in New Delhi; and

(c) what other subjects were discussed and whether the conference accepted the suggestion for setting up of a federal investigation agency; if so, by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the Conference of CBI officers, held recently, the problem of investigating inter-State crimes was generally discussed, amongst other subjects pertaining to organisational matters of CBI. No conclusions were arrived at.

Achievements of Antarctica Stations

1613. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what achievements have been made by India by the establishment of first two stations at Antarctica?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): The establishment of year-round permanent research stations in Antarctica has enabled Indian scientists to gain first hand knowledge in the frontier areas of Antarctic research, especially in the fields of geology, geophysics, metereology, biology, oceanography, geomagnetism and atmospheric physics. The scientific investigations have enabled India to participate in the Antarctic Treaty system and to promote its goals. The knowledge gathered about this unique polar environment has also been utilised in the design and development of indigenous infrastructure, living and working facilities in Antarctica.

US Denial of Space Launch Vehicle Testing Equipment to India

1614. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bush administration has decided to ban export of space launch vehicle testing equipment to India, as it would find use in India's missile programme according to U.S. officials; if so, what alternative arrangements Government has made;

(b) whether Government have taken up the issue with the United States Government; if so, what is the response of U.S. in this regard; and

(c) what is the latest U.S. policy regarding transfer of high technology to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Over the years, United States has been imposing restrictions on the export of sophisticated equipment and components needed for the development of space technology. Continuous attempts are made to identify alternate sources for such items and also accelerate building of indigenous capability, in all such areas to ensure that the programme is not affected.

(b) The issue concerning embargo has been taken up with the U.S. administration through Ministry of External Affairs and a mechanism evolved to deal with the clearances of sophisticated technology items, on a case by case basis. This has resulted in facilitating the export clearance of atleast some of the critical items/components from USA.

(c) The Department of Space has not sought transfer of any high technology from USA being fully aware of the gene-